

Remarks and Arguments

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1 and 5-9 are currently amended.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite. Each issue raised by the examiner is addressed below.

Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to clarify that the digital signal encoder is included within the signal generating device. Support is found in paragraph [49] of the specification and Fig. 8. No new matter is presented.

Claim 7 has been amended for clarity to more clearly conform to the arrangement of components illustrated in Fig. 4. Textual support is found in paragraph [46]. No new matter is presented.

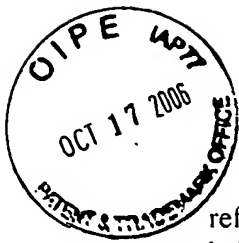
Claim 8 has been amended for clarity to more clearly conform to the arrangement of components illustrated in Fig. 8. Textual support is found in paragraph [49]. No new matter is presented.

Claim 9 has been amended for clarity to more clearly conform to the arrangement of components illustrated in Fig. 8 (wireless cameras communicating with switch/hub via wireless access point 76). Textual support is found in paragraph [49], which also provides explicit support for the use of “introducing” in lieu of “transmitting” in the claim. No new matter is presented.

The specification has also been amended to include a more specific reference to the pattern generator as claimed in Claim 1 and shown in Figs. 4 and 9. Textual support is ample, including original paragraphs [45] and [46]. No new matter is presented.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masten Jr. (US 2003/0185296) in view of Li, et al (US 2003/0097661). It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has misapprehended the nature of the claimed “pattern generator,” and that such a pattern generator is neither disclosed nor suggested by Masten or Li. As described above and in Applicant’s specification, the pattern generator is part of an acoustic locator coupled to the housing of the DVR and used for underwater location of the DVR following an incident. The Examiner states that “Masten obviously encompasses teaching a pattern generator for converting the pixel to a pattern (ie. An image representing an object).” However, the claimed pattern generator has nothing to do with processing of images or pixels, and consequently Masten teaches nothing about this feature of the invention.

Reconsideration or the prior art rejection is respectfully requested in light of the Examiner’s apparent failure to appreciate the description of the acoustic locator and associated pattern generator in the Figures and text.



Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-20 are distinguishable from the cited references and are now allowable for the reasons stated above. The requested amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal, and its entry is therefor respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any other matters which pertain to this Application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve these matters by Examiner's Amendment where possible.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to withdraw or credit any filing fees associated with this Response from Deposit Account No. 01-0477.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 13, 2006.

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